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To deal with refugees—

# Cloak and dagger chief in Austria

BY JAY G. HAYDEN

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21—

(NANA)—William J. Donovan has arrived in Vienna to deal with refugees fled from Hungary. It appears certain he has been vested by President Eisenhower with a very broad commission. Donovan's feats of the past write a dramatic page in American history.

Beginning with an assignment from Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox as an "observer" of events in Southeastern Europe—December, 1940, to March, 1941—Donovan evolved into the chief American "Cloak and Dagger" man of World War II and he has been working ever since in the same line.

From June, 1942, until end of the war he was director of the Office of Strategic Services, the first world-wide spy system ever established by the U. S. government.

ONE OF DONOVAN'S premier operatives in that assignment was Allen W. Dulles, present head of the Central Intelligence Agency, immeasurably the largest and most expensive "spy" organization ever operated by any nation, possibly excepting Soviet Russia.

Nobody hereabouts knows even remotely the extent or cost of the Soviet's instrument of intelligence and subversion, but all available guesses are that it is preposterously large. Certainly that is the assumption of the U. S. government which is spending literally billions annually to outdo it.

ANOTHER JOB for Donovan, not so much advertised but highly important, was his ambassadorship to Thailand by appointment of President Eisenhower in 1953-54. That was in the

closing days of the Korean war and the rapidly developing war in Indo-China, indicative that Communist China and Russia between them had set out to subvert all of Asia and the Near East.

Thailand was not only near the strategic center of that region but there were signs that it might be next to fall into the Communist basket.

Instead Thailand today is a main pillar of democratic strength in Southeastern Asia. Its foreign minister, Prince Wan Wattayakorn, is president of the United Nations General Assembly which today is dealing with the problems both of Suez and Hungary.

NOW 73, Donovan was born in Buffalo, the son of a railroad freight-yard foreman. He worked with his father to meet the family expenses, but still managed to stay in school, working his way to a law degree at Columbia University in 1907.

He was a star quarterback on the Columbia football team. The second string quarterback on the same team was Eddie Collins, later premier second baseman and member of the Cooperstown baseball Hall of Fame.

Entering World War II as a National Guard member of New York's famous "Fighting 69th," Donovan rose to colonel in command of that regiment.

WHEN THE WAR ended, he was the only man who ever had won all three of the American supreme badges of military heroism, the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Distinguished Service Cross—each of them for bravery in a different action. He was severely wounded three times.

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